INCOMING TELEGRAM — Department of State — ACTION COPY

35-31

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Classification Control: 8513

DEPARTMENT OF STATE Rec'd: January 16, 1959 4:07 a.m.

REVIEWED BY J.M.Razi DATE May 6,82

Action: AF

Info: RMR, SS, W, G, SP, C, INR, H

FROM: Benghazi

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 333, January 15, 5 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 333; REPEATED INFORMATION TRIPOLI UNNUMBERED.

Your 330 and 340.

Revised note reflecting changes suggested Department's 333 delivered Prime Minister this morning. Did not go into details but summarized for him main points and expressed hope he would read full text because it set forth at some length USG position with respect arguments contained GOL note in support GOL request for review financial clauses 1954 agreement. Added that while USG of opinion Libya has suffered no economic loss as result presence Wheelus Field nevertheless willing, in interest amicable relations and friendly cooperation, discuss two points raised PMC note November 18.

PM expressed appreciation US willingness discuss subject. He agreed entirely presence Wheelus was beneficial economically city and province of Tripoli but because numerous complaints received from inhabitants vicinity base, attacks in Parliament and newspaper stories existence Wheelus was definite political liability. PM concluded by saying would read note and get in touch with me soon fix date begin discussions. Added matter urgent because questions being raised in Parliament and wanted to be in position inform it discussions to start at early date.

I reminded PM still did not have detailed instructions but said hope have them by time GOL ready begin talks. Took advantage his reference Parliament say USG astonished at silence GOL in face attacks on US and on GOL policy cooperation with US and asked how government proposes reply. (Department telegram 340) PM expressed regret these attacks but said they natural from opposition and occur during every session Parliament.

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session Parliament added he had not been informed developments this particular meeting (PM was absent in Tobruk with UNSG) but recognized these really attacks on policy GOL and should have been answered.

I reiterated USG concerned over matter and feared that if left unanswered such attacks would provide unfavorable background for joint consideration revision financial clauses agreement or for aid talks. PM said he agreed entirely. Although he promised no action believe bringing matter his attention this time may have beneficial effect.

Request instructions urgently permitting me enter into negotiations on basis paragraphs B and C Tripoli's 363.

JONES

MMC HC/5

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